

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 162641
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WTSHINN:ACH
APPROVED BY S/MS:MDSHULMAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 162641

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR THE AMBASSADOR - DELIVER TO AMBASSADOR OOB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CASC, UR, US

SUBJECT: CHERNYAYEV/ENGER CASE

REF: STATE 161656

1. AT HEARING THIS AFTERNOON JUDGE LACEY AGREED TO RELEASE CHERNYAYEV AND ENGER INTO DOBRYNIN'S CUSTODY ON BASIS OF THE LETTER FROM DOBRYNIN AND THEY WERE HANDED OVER TO SOVIET CONSUL MYSHKOV.

2. PRESS GUIDANCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- Q. CHERNYAYEV AND ENGER HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO THE PERSONAL CUSTODY OF AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN. DOES THIS MEAN YOU ARE ABOUT TO TRADE THEM FOR CRAWFORD OR SOMEBODY ELSE?
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- A. I HAVE NO COMMENT AS THEIR FUTURE. I REMIND YOU THAT THEY ARE STILL CHARGED AND A CRIMINAL CASE IS PENDING.

- Q. WAS THE PRESIDENT INVOLVED IN THIS DECISION?

- A. IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON WHETHER

THE PRESIDENT WAS INVOLVED.

- Q. WILL CRAWFORD BE RELEASED IN MOSCOW IN RESPONSE?

- A. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR HIM TO BE RELEASED ON A SIMILAR BASIS.

3. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THERE HAS BEEN APPARENTLY A MISUNDERSTANDING. THE SOVIETS HAD EXPECTED YOU TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM ON CRAWFORD'S RELEASE. PLEASE GO IN TO KORNIYENKO OR KOMPLEKTOV AS SOON AS YOU CAN. WE HAVE GONE OVER THE LETTER YOU WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT AND HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH IT. A COURTESY COPY WAS FURNISHED US BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE. AS YOU WILL NOTE IT IS ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR TO DOBRYNIN'S LETTER EXCEPT THAT IT TAKES ACCOUNT OF PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCES. SINCE CRAWFORD IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PROCURACY DURING HIS PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, THE LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO THE FIRST DEPUTY PROCURATOR GENERAL OF THE USSR REKUNKOV.

4. THE SECRETARY WOULD LIKE TO BE ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AS SOON AS CRAWFORD HAS BEEN RELEASED PLEASE ARRANGE FOR THE STATE DEPT OPERATIONS CENTER TO BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY BY PHONE. THE OPS CENTER SHOULD ALSO BE ADVISED IF THERE IS ANY DELAY IN CRAWFORD'S RELEASE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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